

THE STATE BOARD OF
LOCAL & REGIONAL JAILS
NEWSLETTER

November 20, 2025

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

No. 3



Celebrating 30 Years of Service: Honoring Tawana Ferguson

This year marks an incredible milestone as Tawana Ferguson', Regulatory Compliance Supervisor, celebrates 30 years with the Virginia Department of Corrections. Over the past decade, she has provided outstanding service as an auditor and demonstrated impactful leadership for the State Board of Local and Regional Jails.

Her dedication, professionalism, and commitment have left a lasting impression on colleagues and local and regional jails across the Commonwealth. Her guidance has been especially valued by jails for providing clear direction and steady leadership to help support the navigation of complex challenges. Throughout 10 years of auditing, Tawana has provided thoughtful recommendations, many of which have directly contributed to enhancing minimum standards and fostering positive collaborative relationships between the Board and the jails.

Recognized by her peers as a true leader, Tawana brings strength and competence to every challenge. She has played a vital role in the professional growth and development of many across the agency. We extend gratitude, appreciation, and congratulations to Tawana, for her decades of service and continued contributions to the Commonwealth. Her legacy of leadership continues to inspire all who have had the privilege to work alongside her.

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From left: Regulatory Compliance Analyst Paul Beaupre, Policy Analyst Mary-Huffard Kegley, Executive Secretary Demetrice Tyler-Holliday, Executive Director Brian Flaherty, Jail Death Investigator Alison Lautz, Regulatory Compliance Supervisor Tawana M. Ferguson, Regulatory Compliance Analyst Keischer Brittingham, Architect Gerald Olson.

Not featured: Jail Death Investigator John Rock

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

This October, BLRJ staff proudly wore pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Staff came together to honor survivors, remember those lost, and show support for everyone affected by this disease.



Spotlight on Leadership: Northern Neck Regional Jail's Leadership Council

Northern Neck Regional Jail (NNRJ) continues to invest in leadership development through its Leadership Council (LC), a team of staff dedicated to promoting accountability, teamwork, and the principles of Extreme Ownership. Formed in 2019 by then Superintendent Ted Hull, the LC focuses on building leaders who lead by example and foster a culture of continuous improvement throughout the facility. Members meet regularly to share ideas, mentor peers, and strengthen communication and problem-solving across all departments.

In December, newly inducted LC members will attend “Muster 23” in Orlando, Florida, continuing NNRJ’s commitment to developing strong, effective leaders who positively impact staff, inmates, and facility culture.

“Lead. Win.”

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Recognizing **Lieutenant Joseph** **Tucker for** **International** **Leadership Honor**

The State Board of Local and Regional Jails (BLRJ) proudly recognizes Lieutenant Joseph Tucker of the Lynchburg Police Department for being named to the 2025 International Association of Chiefs of Police - 40 under 40 list. This prestigious international honor celebrates rising leaders in law enforcement who exemplify integrity and a strong commitment to community-centered policing.

Lieutenant Tucker's selection for this distinguished award reflects not only his personal excellence but also the values of professionalism in public service upheld across Virginia's law enforcement community. BLRJ extends congratulations and appreciation to Lieutenant Tucker for his exemplary contributions and leadership.

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BLRJ Visits Caroline Detention Facility



On Friday, November 7, 2025, BLRJ Member Michael Carrera and Executive Director Brian Flaherty visited the Caroline Detention Facility (CDF) to discuss best practices, current challenges, and to tour the facility.

During the visit, Colonel Perry and the CDF staff demonstrated a proactive and adaptable culture, maintaining an exceptionally clean and well-managed facility.

While BLRJ is not authorized to inspect or audit United States prisons or federal corrections institutes, however in accordance with the definitions of COV §53.1-1, Caroline Detention Facility and Farmville Detention Center are inspected by BLRJ for compliance with sanitation standards outlined in 6VAC15-40.

Thank you, Colonel Perry, and the entire CDF team, for your time, engagement, and commitment to excellence!

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BLRJ Approves Reimbursement for Montgomery County Sheriff's Office Sallyport Project

At its May 15, 2024, meeting, BLRJ approved the 25% reimbursement for the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) new vehicle sallyport project, as available through the Code of Virginia.

The new vehicle sallyport, which officially opened on May 5, 2025, provides public safety enhancements and improves operational efficiencies within the facility. This addition represents a continued investment in safety, modernization, and effective jail infrastructure across the Commonwealth.

Thank you to the MCSO, the Department of General Services, and the Department of Planning and Budget for the investment in long-term and lasting public safety.



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BLRJ November Board Action Report:

- Congratulations to the facilities receiving unconditional certification:
 - Rockingham-Harrisonburg Regional Jail
 - William G. Truesdale Adult Detention Center
 - Virginia Beach Lockup Precinct #2
 - **Virginia Beach Correctional Center**
 - Pamunkey Regional Jail
- DOC Offender Management Services Update:
 - 1,331 (1,291 male, 40 female)
- Approved the updated Serious Incident Report Form for jails to report serious incidents to contact@bolrj.virginia.gov pursuant to 6VAC15-40-110.
- Completed 9 case reviews pursuant to Code of Virginia 53.1-69.1.
- Took formal action to extend the Richmond City Justice Center Compliance Plan through May 15, 2026.
- Took formal action to remove the Henrico County Jail - West from 2023 Compliance Plan.

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